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8 Attorney for Plaintiff  
9 JENNIFER LYNN SMITH

10 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
11 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
12 SACRAMENTO DIVISION

13 JENNIFER LYNN SMITH,

14 Plaintiff,

15 v.

16 KILOLO KIJAKAZI, Acting  
17 Commissioner of Social Security,

18 Defendant.

Case No. 2:21-cv-02409-JDP

STIPULATION FOR THE AWARD AND  
PAYMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES AND  
EXPENSES PURSUANT TO THE  
EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT;  
~~[PROPOSED]~~ ORDER

19  
20 IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED by and between the parties through their  
21 undersigned counsel, subject to the approval of the Court, that Plaintiff be awarded  
22 attorney fees of \$1,200.00 under the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA), 28 U.S.C.  
23 § 2412(d). This amount represents compensation for all legal services rendered on  
24 behalf of Plaintiff by counsel in connection with this civil action, in accordance with 28  
25 U.S.C. § 2412(d).

26 After the Court issues an order for EAJA fees to Plaintiff, the government will  
27 consider the matter of Plaintiff's assignment of EAJA fees to counsel. Pursuant to  
28 *Astrue v. Ratliff*, 560 U.S. 586, 598, 130 S.Ct. 2521, 177 L.Ed.2d 91 (2010), the ability

1 to honor the assignment will depend on whether the fees are subject to any offset  
2 allowed under the United States Department of the Treasury's Offset Program. After  
3 the order for EAJA fees is entered, the government will determine whether they are  
4 subject to any offset.

5 Fees shall be made payable to Plaintiff, but if the Department of the Treasury  
6 determines that Plaintiff does not owe a federal debt, then the government shall cause  
7 the payment of fees, expenses and costs to be made directly to Plaintiff's counsel,  
8 Francesco Benavides, pursuant to the assignment executed by Plaintiff.

9 This stipulation constitutes a compromise settlement of Plaintiff's request for  
10 EAJA attorney fees and does not constitute an admission of liability on the part of  
11 Defendant under the EAJA or otherwise. Payment of the agreed amount shall  
12 constitute a complete release from, and bar to, any and all claims that Plaintiff and/or  
13 Francesco Benavides, including Law Offices of Francesco Benavides, may have  
14 relating to EAJA attorney fees in connection with this action.

15 This award is without prejudice to the rights of Francesco Benavides to seek  
16 Social Security Act attorney fees under 42 U.S.C. § 406(b), subject to the savings  
17 clause provisions of the EAJA.

18  
19 Respectfully submitted,

20  
21 Dated: May 18, 2022

Law Offices of Francesco Benavides

22  
23 By: /s/ Francesco Benavides  
24 FRANCESCO P. BENAVIDES  
25 Attorney for Plaintiff  
26  
27  
28

1 Dated: May 18, 2022

PHILLIP A. TALBERT

United States Attorney

PETER THOMPSON

Acting Regional Chief Counsel, Region IX

Social Security Administration

5 By: Mary Tsai\*

MARY TSAI

Special Assistant U.S. Attorney

Attorneys for Defendant


(\*Permission to use electronic signature  
obtained via email on May 17, 2022).

**~~PROPOSED~~ ORDER**

Based upon the parties' Stipulation for the Award and Payment of Equal Access to Justice Act Fees and Expenses, **IT IS ORDERED** that attorney fees of \$1,200.00 as authorized by 28 U.S.C. § 2412 be awarded subject to the terms of the Stipulation.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: May 20, 2022

  
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JEREMY D. PETERSON  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE